

Release

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Unlock Dancing Plaza 2024/25 Dance Season Launch

Unlock Dancing Plaza (the Company) announced its programmes for the 2024/25 dance season at Eaton Hotel on 25.6.2024. In addition to presenting the premiere of "Slow Dance: Something Borrowed", the Company shared a series of "#danceless" public participation projects, residencies, commissions and touring projects. The Company will also premiere "Slow Dance (Zoomed In): Basic Moves 1", one of four "Slow Dance" videos co-directed by Unlock Dancing Plaza Artistic Director Joseph Lee, who conceived and choreographed the "Slow Dance" series, and local director Kitty Yeung. "Slow Dance (Zoomed In): Basic Moves 1" is performed by the Company's founding members Ong Yong Lock and Elsie Chau. Shot at Victoria Harbour near Sai Wan Ho Pier, the two dancers originally from Malaysia and Shanghai, respectively, shared their traces on each other's dancing bodies.

The 2024/25 programmes adhere to the Company's concept of "Danceless", which embodies individuality in dance and is a new aesthetic notion to forsake dance techniques and empower everyone to dance. This effectively promotes mutual exchange between artists and the general public through shared dance experiences that celebrate the diversity of the performing arts.

Annual Production "Slow Dance: Something Borrowed"* and Resident Artists Showcase "Trajectory"

Debuting 25-28 July 2024 at Studio Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, "Slow Dance: Something Borrowed" is the first theatre work in the "Slow Dance" series created by Lee. The "Slow Dance" series originated from his exploration of the reception and presentation of different dance genres, and he aims to subvert the speed and temporality of some original dance forms, extending and transcending the rhythmic and coherent dynamics of traditional performances. "Slow Dance: Something Borrowed" features five outstanding performers from various dance genres - Ong Yong Lock, Cedric Chan, Jennifer Tin, Gigi Yang and Étienne Ferrère - and internationally acclaimed dance artist Arco Renz as the production's dramaturg.

"Slow Dance: Something Borrowed" tickets are available now at art-mate.net.

"Trajectory" is a showcase by Unlock resident artists Andy Lee, Paula Wong, Hoiling Keung and Manna Cheng after their research presentation in April. Through long-term discussions and practice, the four artists started from their own artistic concerns and enriched their exploration with various methods and media to craft a meaningful work that reflects their growth. "Trajectory" will be performed 9-11 August 2024 at Unlock Dancing Plaza Studio.

Local Public Participation Projects to Connect Communities through Dance and Body Awareness

"18dArt Body in Time" launched in Shatin in May 2024 with the "Plaza Dance" theme to unite seniors in the district along with previous participants from Sai Kung who performed in the demonstrations. Led by the Company's Creative Director (Public Engagement) Ong Yong Lock, resident artist Andy Lee and collaborating artist Kerry Cheung, "18d Art Body Time 2024" featured a series of new programmes,

including “Intergenerational Workshops”, “Caregiver Physical Relaxation Workshops” and “Train the Helper Workshops”.

The four-day “#Danceless Camp 2024”* will take place 22-25 August 2024 at Quarryside with the theme “Teaching Artists at Community”. Japanese dance troupe Namstrops and Guangzhou choreographer Ergao will share creative dance concepts and artistic practices from their communities.

Recently, the Company’s “bodydynamics” initiative has been actively incorporated into physical education materials for schools. This year, the Company’s first partner school, Sau Ming Primary School, used them to enhance children’s observations, concentration and communication skills through games and group interactions. The Company also partners with different local and overseas organizations to develop public participation projects, including local theatre company Arts Options to have over ten senior citizens publicly perform at the “Golden Age Arts Festival”. In October 2024, the Company will work with British choreographer and educator Tim Casson on the British Council’s creative project SPARK III, which connects people of all ages through dance and games and helps them regain a sense of innocence and concern for physical and mental well-being.

Touring and Residency for In-depth Artistic and Cultural Exchanges

As a hub for cultural exchanges in different regions, the Company actively collaborates with overseas artists to improve the artistic vision of our residence artists as well as stimulate the local performing arts ecology. In July 2024, Artistic Director Joseph Lee and resident artists Paula Wong and Hoiling Keung will have a residency at Diorama Studio in Berlin, Germany. Diorama was founded by acclaimed choreographer Jefta van Dinther, who performed in #Danceless Complex 2023. Meanwhile, resident artist Andy Lee will head to Singapore in August for an artist-in-residence at RAW Moves and create a performance with Singaporean choreographer Matthew Goh.

Additionally, the Company has been invited by Japan’s Toyooka Theater Festival 2024 to perform “Grasshopper” with Japanese troupe Namstrops. Premiering in 2019, “Grasshopper” was co-created by Unlock Dancing Plaza and Namstrops and has toured in Japan since then. The Company is honored to be invited by Toyooka Theater Festival 2024 to perform and execute a series of #danceless workshops for the community. Looking forward to 2025, the Company has also been invited to Singapore Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts 2024 and Macau City Fringe and will tour for the first time in the Greater Bay Area.

* *“Slow Dance: Something Borrowed” Hotel Partner: Eaton Hotel*

* *“#Danceless Camp 2024” Venue Partner: Quarryside*

* *“Toyooka Theater Festival 2024” Touring Sponsor: Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Tokyo)*

ABOUT UNLOCK DANCING PLAZA www.unlock.com.hk

Founded in 2002, Unlock Dancing Plaza is one of the most forward-thinking and adventurous contemporary dance companies in Hong Kong. The Company has been financially supported by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council since 2009, with Ong Yong Lock as the first Artistic Director. In 2022,

Joseph Lee succeeded Ong as Artistic Director and Ong became Creative Director (Public Engagement), focusing on outreach and community programmes.

In recent years, the Company has made different attempts to expand projects beyond productions, including:

- Unlock Body Lab : Focusing on the creative process, “Unlock Body Lab” aspires to develop cross-media and cross-interaction residency projects, encourages experimental explorations, and encourages creators to make summaries in various forms to present the staged results of their works.
- #Danceless public participatory projects: a public engagement series “Bodydynamics”, “Body in Time” and “Body on Stage”.
- #Danceless Complex: extending the concept of #danceless, the project brings together choreographers from different cultural contexts to reflect on and break through the cognition of dance performance, making the dance festival an experimental field for the exchange of knowledge and experience.

[Download Publicity Photos \(credit: Unlock Dancing Plaza\)](#)

Programme and marketing enquiries

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